

Appl. No. 10/672,955
Prelim. Amdt. dated May 13, 2008
Reply to Final Office Action dated December 13, 2007 and
Advisory Action dated March 13, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computing environment comprising:
a file server;
a file system adapted to store software and also adapted to be accessible to the file server, said software usable to provide services; and
a workstation adapted to couple to the file server and to a client computer;
wherein, in response to a request from the client computer, ~~said software-a software element for reconfiguring a workstation into a server~~ is provided from the file system to the workstation via the file server so that the workstation is re-configured as a server that provides said services to the client computer.

2. (Original) The computing environment of claim 1 wherein the file system comprises a centralized database.

3. (Original) The computing environment of claim 1 wherein the file server comprises a database server.

4. (Original) The computing environment of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of file servers that implement load balancing to distribute traffic among the file servers.

5. (Original) The computing environment of claim 1 wherein the file server implements a heartbeat that determines whether the file server has failed.

6. (Original) The computing environment of claim 1 wherein the file system implements a file protocol selected from the group consisting of Network File System ("NFS"), Andrew File System ("AFS"), and a combination of NFS and AFS.

7. (Currently amended) A computing environment comprising:

a plurality of file servers;

a file system that is adapted to store client applications including at least one client application for reconfiguring a workstation as a server and data and that is adapted to be accessible to the file servers; and

a workstation adapted to couple to the file servers and to a client computer, the workstation comprises a storage medium on which control files are permanently stored, but client applications are not permanently stored;

wherein the workstation is ~~adapted to cause configured such that~~ client applications ~~to be~~ are transferred to the workstation from the file system via at least one of the file servers when requested by the client computer so that the workstation is re-configured as a server; and

wherein the client computer is adapted to utilize the at least some software transferred to the workstation.

8. (Original) The computing environment of claim 7 wherein the data that is transferred to the workstation is used by a client application running on the workstation and wherein the data is permanently stored on the file system and not the workstation.

9. (Original) The computing environment of claim 7 wherein control files comprise server configuration settings.

10. (Original) The computing environment of claim 7 further comprising an interface through which the file server communicates to the workstation.

11. (Original) The computing environment of claim 7 wherein the file system comprises a storage medium selected from the group consisting of Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks (“RAID”) and small computer system interface (“SCSI”) drives.

12. (Withdrawn) A method implemented on a system comprising a file server coupled to a workstation, a client computer and a file system, comprising:

receiving a request from a client computer for a client application, the client application being stored in non-volatile memory on the file system and not on the workstation;

transferring the requested client application from the file system to the workstation for execution on the workstation; and

executing the requested client application on the workstation.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a request from the client computer for data to be used by the client application, the data being stored permanently in non-volatile memory on the file system and not in non-volatile memory on the workstation.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising transferring the requested data from the file system to the workstation.

15. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

means for storing client applications including at least one client application for reconfiguring a workstation as a server;

first means for executing software adapted to obtain and execute the client applications to provide a service;

second means for executing software, the second means for executing reconfigurable by said client application for reconfiguring; and

means for transferring the client applications said client application for reconfiguring from the means for storing the client applications to said second means for executing software via the first means for executing software, so that the second means for executing software is re-configured as a server that provides said service to a client computer.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the means for transferring further comprises means for retrieving the client applications from the means for storing each time the client computer requires execution of the client applications.

17. (Currently amended) A workstation, comprising:

a CPU; and

a volatile memory coupled to the CPU;

wherein said CPU requests and obtains a client application for reconfiguring the workstation as a server from an external file system via a file server on behalf of a client so that the workstation is re-configured as a server;

wherein the CPU executes the client application on behalf of the client.

18. (Previously presented) The workstation of claim 17 wherein the workstation requests and obtains a client application from the external file system every time a client requests the client application to be executed.

19. (Previously presented) The computing environment of claim 1, wherein the software comprises software selected from the group consisting of a server application, an open source web server, a load-balancing application and a developmental runtime programming language.

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20. (Previously presented) The computing environment of claim 7, wherein the client applications comprise applications selected from the group consisting of a server application, an open source web server, a load-balancing application and a developmental runtime programming language.